

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ ARP: BWRAMPMEIER: RJW:5/11/73

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APPROVED BY NEA: RODGER P. DAVIES

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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TAGS: SGEN, SA

SUBJECT: COLLEGE OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS-- AMERICAN
UNIVERSITIES CONSORTIUM CONTRACT

REF: JIDDA 1931

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DAVIES

1. AT MY REQUEST SAUDI DESK OFFICER WRAMPMEIER TALKED TO DAVID HAZEN ON MAY 11. WRAMPMEIER EXPLAINED YOU HAD RECEIVED REPORTS OF MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CPM DEAN BAKR AND MEMBERS OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES ADVISORY CONSORTIUM. WRAMPMEIER ADDED THAT YOU WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS REPORT, AS WAS HE, IN VIEW OF IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION WHICH WE BELIEVE CONSORTIUM HAS MADE TO CPM' S ACHIEVEMENT.

2. HAZEN SAID THAT MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BAKR AND CONSORTIUM DERIVED FROM MEETING BETWEEN BAKR AND MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITIES ADVISORY CONSORTIUM IN ANN ARBOR LAST DECEMBER. AT THAT TIME CONSORTIUM HAD PROPOSED IT PUT TOGETHER TOP- NOTCH GROUP OF SCHOLARS TO ASSIST CPM IN DESIGN OF LABORATORIES, PROCUREMENT OF LAB EQUIPMENT, AND

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DEVELOPMENT OF LABORATORY PROGRAMS. OBJECTIVE WAS TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY IN LABORATORY PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE BEEN HAMPERED IN SOME CASES BY PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT REQUESTED BY ONE PROFESSOR BUT DELIVERED ONLY FOLLOWING

HIS DEPARTURE AND CONSEQUENTLY IGNORED BY HIS SUCCESSORS WHOSE INTERESTS LAY IN OTHER DIRECTIONS. CONSORTIUM ALSO FELT NEED TO GET SAUDIS AWAY FROM IDEA OF PURCHASING CERTAIN " SET- PIECE" LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS APPARENTLY RECOMMENDED BY CPM ARCHITECT WHOSE DESIGN FAVORED THEIR USE.

3. HAZEN EXPLAINED THAT BAKR APPEARED REACT FAVORABLY TO THIS PROPOSAL. CONSEQUENTLY, THE CONSORTIUM PUT IN CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO RECRUIT AND MOTIVATE WELL- QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE ON LAB ADVISORY GROUP. WHEN HAZEN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CONSORTIUM MADE ANNUAL TRIP TO DHAHRAN RECENTLY, THEY WERE DISTURBED TO FIND THAT BAKR HAD PICKED OUT ONE OR TWO WORDS IN MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING WITH CONSORTIUM TO JUSTIFY DEAL WITH ARCHITECT TO BUY OFF- SHELF LABORATORY ITEMS. THIS ACTION NATURALLY UNDERMINED RATIONALE FOR LAB ADVISORY GROUP. SOME MEMBERS OF CONSORTIUM ARE UNDERSTANDABLY ANNOYED WITH BAKR. SPECIFICALLY, MIT AND MICHIGAN ARE NOW WONDERING WHETHER THERE IS ANY PURPOSE IN THEIR CONTINUING WITH THIS PROGRAM.

4. HAZEN ASSURED WRAMPMEIER THAT WHETHER OR NOT MIT AND MICHIGAN QUIT CONSORTIUM, ADVISORY CONSORTIUM ITSELF WILL CONTINUE. HAZEN SAID NOTHING WHICH WOULD SUGGEST EITHER HE OR PRINCETON IS CONSIDERING WITHDRAWAL FROM CONSORTIUM. HAZEN HIMSELF APPEARS BE RELATIVELY RELAXED ABOUT THIS AFFAIR, NOTING THAT HIS EXPERIENCES WITH INDIAN UNIVERSITIES HAVE ACCUSTOMED HIM TO EXPECT FRUSTRATIONS IN DEALING WITH FOREIGN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS. HAZEN ADDED THAT HE PLANNING TO ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING OF CPM BOARD AT DHAHRAN IN JUNE AND HOPES AT THAT TIME BE ABLE MEET WITH YOU IN JIDDA TO REVIEW THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF CONSORTIUM EFFORTS. IN MEANTIME HE PLANS WRITE YOU DIRECTLY TO REASSURE YOU THAT CONSORTIUM IS ALIVE, WELL, AND VERY MUCH IN BUSINESS. ROGERS
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